

REPORT

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1. Number in Sinkiang: The Uzbek race of Sinkiang is also referred to, both in Sinkiang and in English-language texts on that province, as Uzbeg and Wu-tai-pieh-k'o. According to a 1941 survey they numbered 7,966, or slightly over .21% of the total population of Sinkiang.
2. Origin of the Name: The Uzbeks are a mountain people of Turkic-Uighur origin. Their tribal name was formed by combining the words Uz (self) and Bek (master, or chief), to mean "Master of Himself". True to their name, they are proud, willful and generally ambitious. The Uzbeks, like the Tatars, are extremely clanish and never marry outside of their own race. Their tribal motto is, "We bear hunger, thirst, torture and death, but never a master".
3. History of the Race: The Uzbek nation as a whole is now composed of two main ethnic layers. The old Iranian groups which inhabited the southern Inner Asian oasis region and the Turkish tribes of the so-called "Uzbek confederation", which in the sixteenth century conquered this region. Under the influence of the culture of the Iranian agricultural oasis dwellers, the Uzbeks soon abandoned their nomadic economy and went over to a settled, agricultural economy. They absorbed many elements of the higher Iranian culture which they had conquered, to such a degree that for a time Persian was the only language in which literature was written and in which the courts functioned. In the nineteenth century, most of the territory of the Uzbeks was conquered by the Russians. Several Khanates remained nominally independent, but were actually in a vassal relationship to Russia. After the Soviet Revolution, the Uzbeks first formed part of the Turkistan Soviet Republic and later were reorganized into the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic. The Uzbeks comprise the majority of the population in their own Republic. They live also, in scattered groups, in the Tadjik, Kazakh and Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republics and in northern Afghanistan, as well as in Sinkiang.

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4. Language: As mentioned before, for a time Persian was the only language in which Uzbek literature was written and in which their courts functioned. At the present time, however, the Turkic Uzbek language prevails over Iranian as the language of the common people. The Uzbek city dwellers generally still use the Iranicized version of the Uzbek language, whereas the Uzbeks who live in the country use the purer Turkic tongue.
5. Religion: The Uzbeks belong to the Sunni order of the Islamic faith. They, however, consider the mystical teachings of the Sufis important in their religious development.
6. Concentrations: The Uzbeks in Sinkiang, who are refugees from Soviet oppression, reside for the most part in the cities. More than three-quarters of them are located in the cities of Kashgar (Shufu), KuIdja (Ining) and Chuguchak (Tahoheng).
7. Occupations: Up to the sixteenth century the Uzbeks were nomads and made their living by herding cattle and sheep. After that time they settled down and went over to a settled agricultural economy. In Sinkiang, the majority are city dwellers and have become either merchants or traders.

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